

BIOGRAPHY OF HAROLD AKYEAMPONG:

Harold Akyeampong is the President of the Ghana chapter of the world famous music service organization, the Percussive Arts Society. He is the artistic director of the Kusum Agoro Multicultural Project-USA (KAMAPUSA), a multicultural platform that he uses to train people of all ages and backgrounds, African arts and culture and its relevance to the multicultural United States today. He is the US International director of the International Centre for African Culture and Arts (ICACA-Ghana). He is a founding member of many accomplished New York based performing arts groups namely, Africussion Percussion Discussion, Afrikumba Itube, Djembefola Sheriff, Jamaicans in Brooklyn (JIB), Obrumankoma Sankofa Traditionals and the Little Neck Jazz Band.

An experienced ethnomusicologist, historian, dancer, folklorist and cultural educator, Mr. Akyeampong is a graduate of the School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana and the State University of New York at Brockport. Through KAMAPUSA, under the performing name "Okyerema" (Master Drummer), Mr. Akyeampong shares the vast heritage of Africa through African percussion, dance, folk songs, games and creative dramatics, and presents cultural lectures and storytelling programs to people of all backgrounds and ages. Mr. Akyeampong has performed or lectured in over 300 schools and specialized venues in the United States and around the world.

Mr. Akyeampong is an accomplished teaching artist at Urban Arts Partnership, a New York City based arts in education non-profit that advances the intellectual, social and artistic development of underserved public school students through arts-integrated education programs to close the achievement gap.

A regular performer at NYC's community celebrations and festivals, Mr. Akyeampong has performed as a percussionist, storyteller and children games facilitator, represented Ghana at a United Nations fund-raising event and at an International Youth Day event. His groups, Africussion Percussion Discussion and Obrumankoma Sankofa Traditionals have been performing in many of the Brooklyn's community events including Dance Africa, International African Arts Festivals, the annual Kwanzaa Celebration at Boys and Girls High School and the Tribute to the Ancestors at Coney Island. His most recent engagement was as a Ghanaian performing arts consultant to the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) during the 2011 Dance Africa.

Internationally, Mr. Akyeampong has been resident instructor at the Ju Percussion Group of Taiwan leading to a culminating event called Afri-China. He has also been a guest performer with the Afridonia Drum and Dance Company of Scotland and the Susubiri African Folklorics, an African Music and Dance Institute in Germany. He was the guest of the National Black Association of Colombia, 2015 where he performed to a packed theater, the Bogota equivalent of New York's Appolo Theater. His most recent International performance tour took him to Mexico where he was a rave.

Mr. Akyeampong has presented papers on African culture at the Congress on Research

in Dance, the Percussive Arts Society, the American Board of African Traditional Priests and Healers Sankofa Conferences, and the annual Percussion for Peace Festivals in Ghana. As a lecturer, Mr. Akyeampong has facilitated African culture clinics at Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn College, New Mexico State University, Cornell University, Eastman School of Music, the University of Rochester, Nazareth College, Kutztown University, and at SUNY Brockport and Buffalo.

Mr. Akyeampong is the recipient of the Borborfantse Kusum Award, the Kyidom Community Development Award, and the Wonsoum Human Rights and Civic Education Award.

Harold is an active writer and writes weekly for three Ghanaian online magazines and newspapers on variety of cultural topics. He is currently working on two books, *Munpurugu Yanga: Storytelling and African Dance in the Americas*; and *African Traditional Religion, Asuo Meye Obo): The Folktales and Messages from Nana Asuo Gyebi, an Akan Deity in the United States*. He is also working on creating a video documentary, OBAATANPA's Akomkese: A Ghanaian Traditional Religious celebration in Brooklyn and also has "Letter to Asantehene, a Video Message from Ghana Traditional Priests to the Great Asante King, Otumfour"